

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF POSTS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2932  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019**

**POST OFFICES FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSIONS**

**2932. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to leverage post office network and enhance the role of India Posts in the financial inclusion process, especially of the poor and backward classes living in villages in most backward and minority concentration districts of the country, especially in Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a task force has been set up in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the composition, its major recommendation and the status of its implementation;
- (d) whether any district with high population of tribals and backward communities has been selected as a pilot district for specific analysis and study; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, The Department of Posts has predominantly rural network of post offices in the country with 89 percent post offices located in rural India. There are 1.56 lakh post offices in the country, out of which 1,41,002 post offices are located in rural and backward areas. All these Post offices are providing Banking and Insurance services to the rural population and thereby promoting financial inclusion throughout the country including the state of Odisha. Leveraging upon the wide postal network of 1,29,161 Branch Post offices, Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) based handheld devices have been provided for carrying out online postal and financial transactions including the 7024 Branch Post offices (BOs) of Odisha. Further, 40 BOs have been opened in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of Odisha to promote financial inclusion in the state. At present more than 1.36 lakh Post offices are also working as access points of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and providing payments bank services of IPPB especially in rural areas and among the underserved segments of the society.

- (c) No Sir, as on date there is no specific task force for leveraging post offices network for financial inclusion.
- (d) No Sir, no specific district has been selected as pilot district for study.
- (e) Does not arise in view of above.

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